

Materials List for Watercolor Botanicals

Painting Seed Pods in Watercolor

at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden || Heeyoung Kim

“Students can use any good (artist/professional) quality materials that they already have and feel comfortable with. Materials in this list are recommended for those who want to try the ones the instructor uses. Links in this list are for references.”

1. Specimen: Milkweed Seedpods (green/young and matured ones)

Students are advised to gather them while they are available. When it is not possible to get them in person, they can use the photos the instructor will send ahead of the class.

2. Paper brand and dimension: Student’s choice

Instructor prefers sheets and cuts them into desirable sizes, rather than buying a pad or block, because of distinctively better quality in sheets. 300 lb is ideal for large artworks, but 140 lb is good enough for small works. Students can choose the brand and size of the paper they are comfortable with.

- **Watercolor Paper:** Instructor uses Winsor and Newton Professional Watercolor paper, Hot Pressed. 300 lb (nice and thick but rougher than other hot pressed paper) or 140 lb (thin, but not badly buckling, and smoother surface, good for smaller works)

One can order this paper at Blick website,

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/winsor-newton-professional-watercolor-paper/>

or Ken Bromley website in UK

<https://www.artsupplies.co.uk/item-winsor-&-newton-professional-watercolour-paper.htm>

- **Drawing/layout Paper:** For initial drawing, any thin tracing paper or parchment paper will be good.

3. Brushes:

Instructor’s brushes (Keep in mind that brushes perform differently on different paper surfaces and different ways of using). This recommendation is based on Winsor and Newton hot pressed watercolor paper.)

- A) **- For wetting and touching up with water:** Princeton Velvetouch Series 3950, Filbert, #4, 6. From the link below, choose Filbert, 3950 FB from size 4 & 6. These brushes are not expensive but very good quality. So, we can buy several of them at reasonable cost. When you paint larger pieces, getting #8 will be good, too.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/princeton-velvetouch-series-3950-synthetic-brushes/>

when you don’t see them in stock at Dickblick, Jerry’s Artarama is another place you can order these.

<https://www.jerrysartarama.com/princeton-velvetouch-synthetic-blend>

- B) **- For details and dry-brush:** Winsor & Newton Series 7 Kolinsky Sable Miniature, Round # 1, 2, 3, 4. **Make sure to choose “Series 7” and “Miniature”.**

For these brushes, Ken Bromley website in UK, <https://www.artsupplies.co.uk> is more reliable.

- C) **- For lifting:** Da Vinci Cosmotop Spin, Series 5880 (flat), # 2, 6. **(Strongly recommended!)**

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/da-vinci-cosmotop-spin-brushes/>

Currently I see them out of stock at dickblick website. So, wait a bit and see if the restock them.

D) **- For mixing:** a stiff, bristle brush is better than soft watercolor brushes, as it scrubs paint quickly. Get a cheap, flat oil painting brush, #2 or 3. (no need to buy an expensive one)

4. Paints

Instructor uses variety of brands, Winsor&Newton (WN), Daniel Smith (DS), Holbein (H), and Schmincke Horadam Aquarell (SCH). All paints listed here are transparent or semi-transparent, non or less toxic, and listed as highly lightfast based on ASTM International or equivalent standard.

For the moment due to the difficulties of getting new art supplies, I try to use primary colors in a warm and cool group and a few more, and learn how to mix and use them as much as possible.

Any similar colors with these mentioned below should be fine to mix the light and dark brown, green and purple grey tones.

Six primary colors:

Warm Group: Winsor Blue Green Shade (WN), Pure Yellow (SCH) (or Winsor Yellow (WN))
Permanent Rose (WN) (or Quinacredone Rose (DS), Quinacridone Pink (DS))

Cool Group: Indanthrene Blue (WN) (or Indigo (WN or DS)), Lemmon Yellow (DS-strongly recommend!),
Permanent Carmine (WN) (or “Permanent” Alizarin Crimson (WN))

A few more colors recommended:

Raw Sienna (W/N or others) and Quinacridon Sienna (DS)

5. Palette

Student’s favorite palette is fine.

You don’t need to buy this but my favorite palette is this one.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/mijello-silver-nano-palette/>

Important: one or two flat plates for mixing dark colors

6. Basic Drawing Materials:

A few graphite pencils: #2H, H, B or HB, an eraser, measuring tools (ruler, compass),

A way to trace the drawing to watercolor paper - tracing (graphite) paper. I will show how to make one with your own graphite pencils.

7. Masking Fluid and a pen nib- essential for this project!

- Art Masking Fluid (Winsor&Newton, Pebeo, or other reliable products)
- Make sure it is “Removable” Masking fluid. (Do Not Buy Permanent One!), Slightly pigmented one (tinted) is easier to use!
- Pen nibs to apply it

Speedball Standard Pointed Dip Pen Nib #513E (See or order here:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/speedball-standard-point-dip-pen-nibs/>)

8. Other Miscellaneous Items:

2 water jars for washing brushes, paper towel, a knife for sharpening pencils or cutting/dissect specimens.
A drawing board or similar to provide secure surface for painting.

9. A good lighting and comfortable work space

Since we will use the computer during the class, students are advised to make the work space comfortable with their computer set up.

For questions, contact Heeyoung Kim
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You can see some more useful art supplies at my website/about/